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P24550.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroyuki HOJO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3764

Appl. No. : 10/758,019

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : January 16, 2004

For : BALANCE PRACTICING MACHINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-286578 to Osamu et al., issued on October 16, 2001, which is discussed on page 1 of Applicants' application, along with an English language abstract thereof ;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-079113 to Osamu et al., issued on March 27, 2001, along with an English language abstract thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-210391 to Youichi et al., issued on August 2, 2000, along with an English language abstract thereof; and

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International Patent Publication No. WO 01/93961 to Nakanishi et al., issued on August 22, 2002, along with an English language translation.

Applicants also call the following documents, which were cited in a communication from the European Patent Office, issued April 6, 2004, for counterpart EP 04 00 0897, to the Examiner's attention:

WO 98/32501 to Chapman et al., issued July 30, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 6,378,278 to Talbot, issued April 30, 2002;

EP 0 963 767 to Graupner et al., issued December 15, 1999;

WO 97/29815 to Rothhaupt et al., issued August 21, 1997;

U.S. Patent No. 5,787,692 to Purdy, issued August 4, 1998; and

DE 2 259 376 to Das Trekking, issued June 12, 1974.

Copies of the above-noted documents, the European Search Report and the communication from the European Patent Office are enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. Further, each of the above-mentioned documents is listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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The category of relevance of each document cited in the European Search Report, the relevant portions thereof and the EP claims to which each cited document is considered relevant by the EP Examiner are, as cited in the European Search Report.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/757,850, to HOJO et al., filed on January 16, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the Merits has not issued in the instant application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials. However, if an Office Action on the Merits has issued, and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned
at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroyuki HOJO et al.

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April 29, 2004
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P2550		Serial No. 10/758,019							
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant Hiroyuki HOJO et al.									
				Filing Date January 16, 2004		Group 3764							
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER			DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE				
		6	3	7	8	2	7	8	04/30/02	TABOT			
		5	7	8	7	6	9	2	08/04/98	PURDY			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS													
		DOCUMENT NUMBER			DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO				
	2001	-	2	8	6	5	7	8	10/16/01	JAPAN			
	2001	-	0	7	9	1	1	3	03/27/01	JAPAN			
	2000	-	2	1	0	3	9	1	08/02/00	JAPAN			
		01	/	9	3	9	6	1	08/22/02	W.I.P.O.			X
		98	/	3	2	5	0	1	07/30/98	W.I.P.O.			
		0	9	6	3	7	6	7	12/15/99	E.P.O.			
		97	/	2	9	8	1	5	08/21/97	W.I.P.O.			
		2	2	5	9	3	7	6	06/12/74	GERMANY			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)													
		1	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-286578.										
		2	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-079113.										
		3	English Language Abstract of JP 2000-210391.										
EXAMINER						DATE CONSIDERED							
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.													